

The logo for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). It consists of the word "FASEB" in a bold, white, serif font, centered within a dark blue rectangular box with a thin gold border.

# Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— Quality Life Through Research —

## Member Societies

The American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry  
and Molecular Biology

American Society for Pharmacology  
and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Investigative  
Pathology

American Society for Nutritional  
Sciences

The American Association of  
Immunologists

Biophysical Society

American Association of Anatomists

The Protein Society

The American Society for Bone and  
Mineral Research

American Society for Clinical  
Investigation

The Endocrine Society

The American Society of Human  
Genetics

Society for Developmental Biology

## Associate Members

American Peptide Society

Association of Biomolecular  
Resource Facilities

Society for the Study of  
Reproduction

Teratology Society

Radiation Research Society

Society for Gynecologic  
Investigation

Environmental Mutagen Society

International Society for  
Computational Biology

## President and Board Chairman

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March 1, 2005

The Honorable Michael Castle  
The Honorable Diana L. DeGette

Dear Representatives Castle and DeGette:

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, our 22 member societies and their 66,000 members, I write in strong support of H.R.810 "The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005" and to thank you for your outstanding leadership on this issue. This bill would allow expanded federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research, a promising area of discovery that will dramatically increase our understanding of basic human biology and perhaps lead to cures for devastating illnesses, such as diabetes or Parkinson's.

As you are aware, the President's current policy restricts funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to stem cell lines derived before August 9, 2001. While we initially believed there were greater than 60 lines available for research, the latest evidence from NIH indicates that at the most 19 are currently available, far less than the intent of the policy. Last year, FASEB joined with more than 140 other organizations, representing patient groups, universities and scientific societies, in urging President Bush to reassess the funding policy, in light of recent scientific advances and the developments regarding the number of stem cell lines. However, we have seen no indication that the Administration is willing to rethink its position. It is now time for Congress to take action in the best interests of the American people.

There is a general consensus in the scientific community that in order for the full therapeutic potential of human embryonic stem cells to be reached, more lines must be readily available to researchers. The restrictions on embryonic stem cell research have not only hindered our medical progress, but have invoked an aura of uncertainty that has made talented researchers reluctant to venture into the field. H.R. 810 would allow for advancement in this critical area of science, while providing an ethical framework for stem cell research.

Congress has shown its commitment to medical research and the heartfelt desire to aid those suffering from disease and injury. This bill reflects the very spirit of that support. Thank you again for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Kincade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P".

Paul W. Kincade, Ph.D.  
President, FASEB